METHOD FOR ENABLING A CLIENT TO SPECIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN IMAGE TO BE DOWNLOADED FROM A SERVER

5   **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for serving an image from a server to a
client, e.g., a computer having a browser or other
graphics viewing engine. The user of the client first
specifies a set of one or more bitmap characteristics for
10   an image transfer, with at least one of the bitmap
characteristics including a number of bits per pixel.
Preferably, this specification is accomplished using an
applet or other piece of code that is downloaded to the
client from the server. Later, when the server receives
15   a client request that includes data identifying a
specified bitmap characteristic, a server processing
routine (e.g., a servlet) generates a version of the
image that conforms to the specified bitmap
characteristic. This version is then delivered back to
20   the client in response to the original request. In this
way, the user of the client machine can control the
particular characteristics of the image files that are
delivered to his or her machine.

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